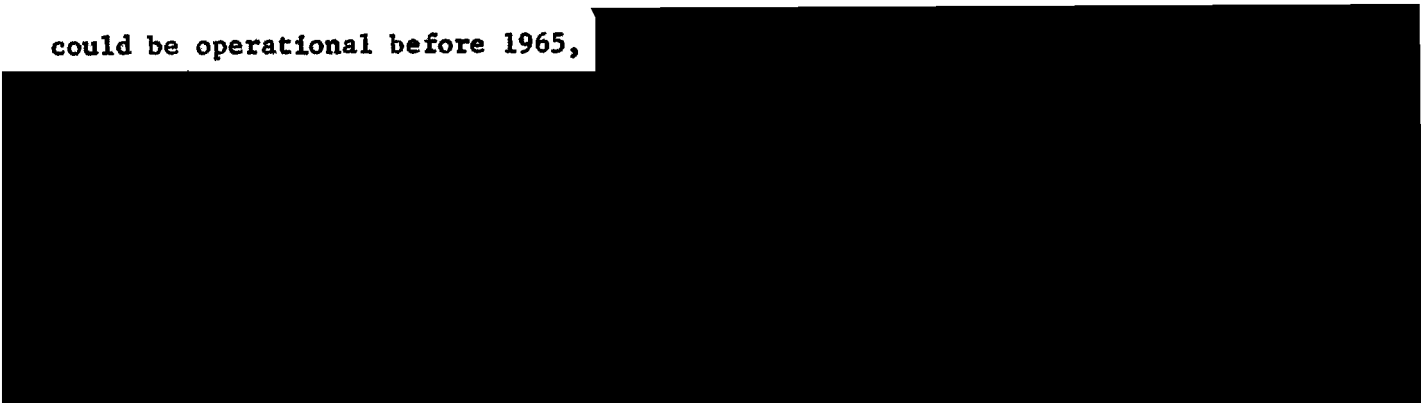


SECRET

**\*ARMY Declass/Release Instructions On File\***  
**U.S. Declassification/Release Instructions On File**

Two U.S. satellite programs which can be classified in the reconnaissance field are under development now and will be operational in the 1961-62 time period; MIDAS in 1961 and SAMOS in 1962.

These systems will not pose a serious physical threat to the Soviet in the 1960-1965 time period and the development of a separate anti-satellite system in this time frame is doubtful; however, with their strong accent on internal security the Soviets may choose to take direct action against satellites at the earliest practicable time. It is doubtful that an anti-satellite system could be operational before 1965,



The Soviet requirements for anti-satellite weapons could generate two separate vehicles. First a vehicle with the exclusive capability of intercepting and destroying (or neutralizing) the enemy satellite on the first pass or after the decision to destroy has been given, and a second vehicle which could combine threat identification, threat assessment, and kill assessment with the capability of destruction or neutralization. The anti-ballistic missile could provide a limited part of the FIRST requirement and a truly anti-satellite system would be required for the second requirement. There appears to be no reason to consider a manned vehicle for requirement number one but a manned vehicle might simplify the accomplishment of requirement number two; however, the threat and damage assessment can be accomplished by an unmanned vehicle more expeditiously than by a manned vehicle.

SECRET